

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE**

**OCTOBER 14, 2008**

**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

Across the nation, we have continued to make great progress in our fight against breast cancer. In the last two decades, the number of deaths from breast cancer in California has declined by more than 20 percent. This is attributed to earlier detection through increased screening and awareness, and improved diagnosis and treatment.

However, breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer-related death and the leading cause of cancer-related premature death in women in Los Angeles County. White women have the highest incidence rate but African American women are more likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group. In addition, even as overall death rates are falling, rates among Asian women have increased slightly in the last decade.

Nationwide, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lifetime. In Los Angeles County, nearly 7,000 women will be diagnosed in 2008 and approximately 1,150 will die.

**- M O R E -**

**MOTION**

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When the cancer is confined to the breast, the five-year survival rate for women is over 95 percent. Since there are often no symptoms or signs present in the beginning stages of breast cancer, early detection through clinical breast exams and regular mammograms is essential. Free or low cost mammograms are available to low income women who call the County Office of Women's Health multi-lingual hotline. The number is 1-800-793-8090.

During this month, we would like to acknowledge the courageous survivors and women currently struggling with the disease, and the dedicated providers and researchers working to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease through prevention, early detection, and scientific research.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Proclaim **the month of October 2008 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month** and call upon government officials, businesses, communities, healthcare professionals, educators and all the people throughout the County of Los Angeles to continue our strong commitment to detecting and curing breast cancer and to raise awareness of breast cancer by talking with family members and friends about the importance of screening and early detection. By educating ourselves and working together, we will improve our ability to prevent, detect, treat, and ultimately cure breast cancer.

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